

## PRESIDENT'S WORD IS 'TO PREPARE'

**Annual Message Pleads for Concentrated and Efficient Action.**

### FOR GREATER REGULAR ARMY

**Citizen Soldiers Part of His Plan—Problem of Commercial Mobilization Stated—Dishonesty Among Certain Elements in Our National Life Serious Menace to Peace.**

Washington, Dec. 7.—President Wilson today delivered the following message to congress:

Gentlemen of the Congress: Since I last had the privilege of addressing you on the state of the Union the two of nations on the other side of the sea, which had then only begun to glimmer in its portentous proportions, has extended its threatening and sinister sweep until it has swept within its flame some portion of every quarter of the globe, not excepting our own hemisphere, has entered the whole field of international affairs, and now presents a prospect of reorganization and reconstruction such as statesmen and peoples have never been called upon to attempt before.

We have stood apart, emphatically neutral. It was our manifest duty to do so. Not only did we have no part or interest in the policies which seem to have brought the conflict on; it was necessary, if a universal catastrophe were to be avoided, that a limit should be set to the sweep of destruction. We know that some part of the great family of nations should keep the processes of peace alive. If only to prevent extensive economic ruin and the breakdown throughout the world of the industries by which its populations are fed and sustained. It was manifestly the duty of the self-governed nations of this hemisphere to redress, if possible, the balance of economic loss and confusion at the other. If they could do nothing more. In the day of readjustment and recuperation we earnestly hope and believe that they can do infinite service.

**American Nations Partners.**

In this neutrality, to which they were hidden not only by their separate life and their habitual detachment from the politics of Europe but also by a clear perception of international duty, the states of America have become conscious of a new and more ~~wide-spread and mutual~~ partnership in affairs, more clearly conscious of the many common sympathies and interests and duties which bind them stand together.

There was a time in the early days of our own great nation, and of the republics fighting their way to independence in Central and South America, when the government of the United States looked upon itself as the south's guardian of the republics to the south of her as against any encroachments or efforts at political control from the other side of the water; felt it its duty to play the part even without invitation from them; and I think that we can claim that the task was undertaken with a true and disinterested enthusiasm for the freedom of the Americas and the unfeigned self-government of her independent peoples. But it was always difficult to maintain such a role without offense to the pride of the peoples whose freedom we sought to protect, and without provoking serious misconceptions of our motives, and every thoughtful man of affairs must welcome the altered circumstances of the new day in whose light we now stand, when there is no claim of guardianship or thought of wards but, instead, a full and honorable association of partners between ourselves and our neighbors, in the interest of all America, north and south. Our concern for the independence and prosperity of the states of Central and South America is not altered. We retain unabated the spirit that has inspired us throughout the whole life of our government and which was so frankly put into words by President Monroe. We still mean always to make a common cause of national independence and of political liberty in America.

**Attitude Toward Mexico.**

We have been put to the test in the case of Mexico, and we have stood up to it. Whether we have been beaten Mexico by the course we have pursued remains to be seen. Her fortunes are in our hands. But we have at least proved that we will not take advantage of her in her distress and undertake to impose upon her an order and government of our own choosing. We will aid and comfort Mexico, but we will not coerce her; and our course with regard to her ought to be sufficient proof to all Americans that we seek no political supremacy or selfish control.

The moral is, that the states of America are not hostile rivals but co-operating friends, and that their growing sense of community of interest, alike in matters political and in matters economic, is likely to give them a new significance as factors in international affairs and in the political history of the world.

**Drawing the Americas Together.**

There is, I venture to point out, an especial significance just now attaching to this whole matter of drawing the Americas together in bonds of honorable partnership and mutual ad-

vice. Many plans long matured shall be carried out, but it does make definite and explicit a program which has heretofore been only implicit, both in the minds of the two commissioners on naval affairs and discussed in the debates of the two houses but nowhere formulated or formally adopted. It seems to me very clear that it will be to the advantage of the country for the congress to adopt a comprehensive plan for putting the navy upon a final footing of strength and efficiency and to press that plan as expeditiously within the next five years. We have always looked to the navy of the country as our first and chief line of defense; we have always seen it to be our manifest course of procedure to be strong on the seas. Year by year we have been creating a navy which now ranks very high indeed among the navies of the maritime nations. We should now definitely determine how we shall complete what we have begun, and how soon.

The program to be laid before you contemplates the construction within five years of ten battleships, six battle cruisers, ten scout cruisers, ten destroyers, fifteen fleet submarines, forty gunboats, one hospital ship, two ammunition ships, two fuel oil ships, and one regular repair ship. It is proposed that of this number we shall the first year provide for the construction of two battleships, two battle cruisers, three scout cruisers, fifteen destroyers, five fleet submarines, twenty-five coast submarines, two gunboats, and one hospital ship; the second year, two battleships, one scout cruiser, ten destroyers, four fleet submarines, fifteen coast submarines, one gunboat, and one ammunition ship; the third year, two battleships, one battle cruiser, two scout cruisers, five destroyers, two fleet submarines, and fifteen coast submarines; the fourth year, two battleships, two battle cruisers, two scout cruisers, ten destroyers, two fleet submarines, fifteen coast submarines, one gunboat, one ammunition ship, and one repair ship.

**Must Provide Ships.**

With a view to meeting these pressing necessities of our commerce and arming ourselves at the earliest possible moment of the present unparalleled opportunity of linking the two Americas together in bonds of mutual interest and service, an opportunity which may never return again if we miss it now, proposals will be made to the present congress for the purchase or construction of ships to be owned and directed by the government similar to those made to the last congress, but modified in some essential particulars. I recommend these proposals to you for your prompt acceptance with the more confidence because every month that has elapsed since the former proposals were made has made the necessity for such action more and more manifestly imperative. That need was then foreseen; it is now acutely felt and everywhere realized by those for whom trade is walking but who can find no conveyance for their goods. I am not so much interested in the particularities of the program as I am in taking immediate advantage of the great opportunity which awaits us if we will but act in this emergency.

**More Men for the Navy.**

The secretary of the navy is asking also for the immediate addition to the personnel of the navy of 1,000 sailors, 1,000 apprentices, 1,000 men, and 1,500 marines. This increase would be sufficient to care for the ships which are to be completed within the fiscal year 1917 and also for the number of men which must be put in training to man the ships which will be completed early in 1918. It is also necessary that the number of midshipmen at the Naval Academy at Annapolis should be increased by at least three hundred.

If this full program should be carried out we should have built or building in 1917, according to the estimates of survival and standards of classification followed by the general board of the department, an effective navy consisting of 27 battleships, of the first line, 6 battle cruisers, 25 battleships of the second line, 10 armored cruisers, 12 scout cruisers, 5 first-class cruisers, 2 second-class cruisers, 19 third-class cruisers, 108 destroyers, 18 fleet submarines, 157 coast submarines, 6 monitors, 29 gunboats, 4 supply ships, 15 fuel ships, 4 transports, 3 tenders to torpedo vessels, 8 vessels of special types, and 2 ammunition ships. This would be a navy fitted to our needs and worthy of our traditions.

**Larger Army Plan.**

They contemplate an increase of the standing force of the regular army from its present strength of 5,023 officers and 182,385 enlisted men of all services to a strength of 7,134 officers and 184,787 enlisted men, or \$14,663, all told, all services, rank and file, by the addition of fifty-two companies of coast artillery, fifteen companies of engineers, ten regiments of infantry, four regiments of field artillery, and four Aero squadrons, besides 750 officers required for a great variety of extra services, especially the all important duty of training the citizen force of which I shall presently speak. 722 noncommissioned officers for service in drill, recruiting and the like, and the necessary quota of enlisted men for the quartermaster corps, the hospital corps, the ordnance department, and other similar auxiliary services. These are the additions necessary to render the army adequate for its present duties, duties which it has to perform not only upon our own continental coasts and borders and at our interior army posts, but also in the Philippines, in the Hawaiian Islands, at the Isthmus, and in Porto Rico.

It is high time we repaired our mistake and resumed our commercial independence on the seas.

**Need of Merchant Marine.**

For it is a question of independence. If other nations go to war or seek to hamper each other's commerce, our merchants, it seems, are at their mercy, to do with as they please. We must use their ships, and use them as they determine. We have not ships enough of our own. We cannot handle our own commerce on the seas. Our independence is provincial, and is only on land and within our own borders. We are not likely to be permitted to use even the ships

of other nations in rivalry of their own trade and are without means to extend our commerce even where the doors are wide open and our goods desired. Such a situation is not to be endured. It is of capital importance not only that the United States should be its own master on the seas and enjoy the economic independence which only an adequate merchant marine would give it, but also that the American hemisphere as a whole should enjoy a like independence and self-sufficiency. If it is not to be drawn into the tangle of European affairs without such independence the whole question of our political unity and self-determination is very seriously clouded and complicated indeed.

Moreover, we can develop no true effective American policy without ships of our own—not ships of war, but ships of peace, carrying goods and carrying much more, creating friendships and rendering indispensable services to all interests on this side of the water.

**Must Provide Ships.**

With a view to meeting these



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A fine box of Stationery.

A Mystic Construction Set.

Cards and Booklets.

A Fancy Ink Well and

Paper Weight and Knife.

Various other things. Come and let us help you make a selection.

Regulation of Railroads.

No one, I am sure, would wish to take any backward step. The regulation of the railways of the country by federal commission has had admirable results and has fully justified the hopes and expectations of those by whom the policy of regulation was originally proposed. The question is not what should we undo? It is, whether there is anything else we can do that would supply us with effective means, in the very process of regulation, for bettering the conditions under which the railroads are operated and for making them more useful servants of the country as a whole. It seems to me that it might be the part of wisdom, therefore, before further legislation in this field is attempted, to look at the whole problem of co-ordination and efficiency in the full light of a fresh assessment of circumstance and opinion, as a guide to dealing with several parts of it.

For what we are seeking now, what

in my mind is the single thought of

this message, is national efficiency and security. We serve it in the spirit of its peculiar genius. It is the genius of common men for self-government, industry, justice, liberty and peace. We should see to it that it lacks no instrument, no facility or vigor of law, to make it sufficient to play its part with energy, safety and assured success. In this we are no partisans but heralds and prophets of a new age.

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DR. GEO. E. KELLOGG firmly

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for the fiscal year 1917, EXCLUDING these figures, taken with the figures for the present fiscal year which I have already given, disclose our financial position for the year 1917. Assuming that the taxes imposed by the emergency revenue act and the present duty on sugar are to be discontinued, and that the balance at the close of the present fiscal year will be only \$10,644,005.78, that the disbursements for the Panama canal will again be about twenty-five millions, and that the additional expenditures for the army and navy are unchanged by the enlargement of the same, the balance of the budget is to be drawn from the surplus of the other nations and set up a new standard, namely—that sum of such origin and such free choice of allegiance would, over time, in the long run, be sufficient to meet the expenses of the army and navy. The army and navy are unchanged by the enlargement of the same, the balance of the budget is to be drawn from the surplus of the other nations and set up a new standard, namely—that sum of such origin and such free choice of allegiance would, over time, in the long run, be sufficient to meet the expenses of the army and navy.

Everything like this before. It never

occurred it possible that men, grown

out of great free stocks such as supplied

of that little, but how heroic,

nation that in a high day of old made

it very like to free itself from every

engagement that had darkened the

futures of the other nations and set

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However, we can develop no true

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